

Recreational Fisheries¹

Hurricane Katrina impacted recreational fishing from the Florida panhandle to the Texas border, with additional impacts being felt in southern Florida, particularly the Keys. Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana were the most affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The for-hire fleet in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and the West Florida is estimated to be 2,119 vessels (see Table 2). Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources reports limited damage to its for-hire fleet, with disruption of services primarily coming from lost income due to cancelled trips and lack of travel to the region. Extensive damage to the for-hire fleets in Mississippi and Louisiana is anticipated.

	Charter / Headboats
Alabama	191
Mississippi	74
Louisiana	532
W. Florida	1,322

Table 2. Estimated Number of Charter & Headboats in 2004 by State

Tables 3a-c report information on angler trips taken in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi by state. Briefly, these tables reveal a sizable recreational fishing sector generating significant economic activity in each state.

Alabama	
Total Trips	2.1 mil
Charter Trips	72,000
Annual Economic Impacts	\$142M
Table 3a.	
Mississippi	
Total Trips	1.1 mil
Charter Trips	12,300
Annual Economic Impacts	\$35.6M
Table 3c.	

Louisiana	
Total Trips	4.8 mil
Charter Trips	134,000
Annual Economic Impacts	\$392M
Table 3b.	
West Florida	
Total Trips	16.6 mil.
Charter Trips	564,000
Annual Economic Impacts	\$5,506M
Table 3d	

Tables 3 a-d. 2004 Recreational Fishing in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and West Florida

Figure 5 shows the seasonal variation in sportfishing economic impacts for Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. From these figures, it is clear that while September and October is not the peak season in any state, it is a good season. Overall, the economic impacts generated from sportfishing in September/October represent 10-15% of total annual economic impacts. For example, in Louisiana, 15% of the annual economic impacts from sportfishing were generated during September/October 2004, with the economic activity generated in September/October almost 75% of the peak season (May/June)

¹ All data is from NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS), which includes an angler and for-hire component. All 2004 data is preliminary.

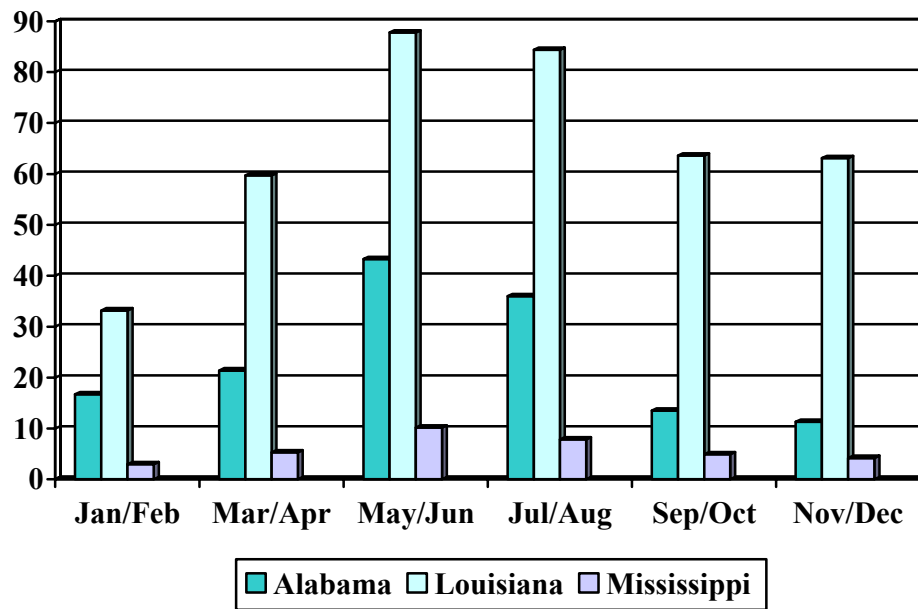


Figure 5a. 2004 Sportfishing Economic Impacts in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi by Wave

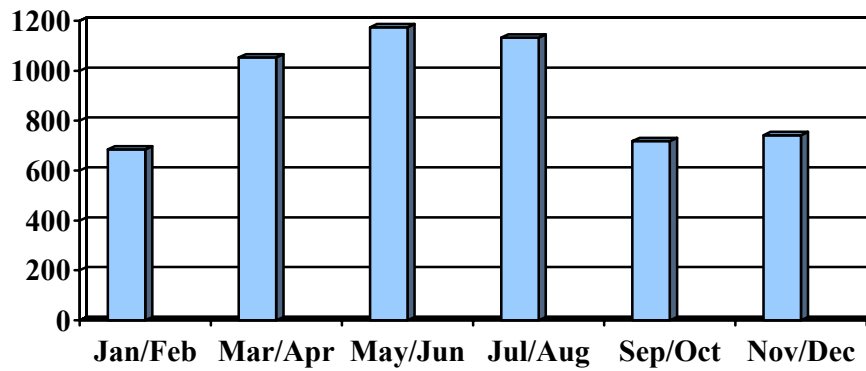


Figure 5b. 2004 Sportfishing Economic Impacts in West Florida by Wave